



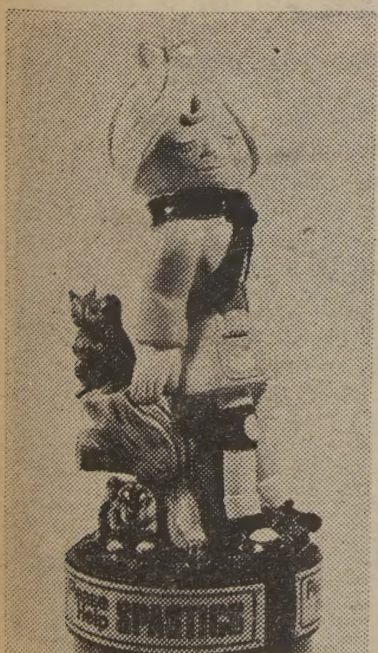
Cheeky, beautiful and a living doll

THE Spastics Society's famous collecting box doll showing the life-sized figure of a child is a familiar sight outside shops all over the country, and soon a new version will appear in our High Streets.

The model for the new collecting box is 10-year-old Sarah Tomkins, from Worcester, a boarder at the Society's Craig-y-Parc School in South Wales.

Artist George Stocki chose Sarah from a selection of photographs of spastic children. He used her picture as the basis for his clay model from which the collecting box will be made.

He said: 'My idea was to show a child who was spastic, asking for help but not begging. . . . The old model was an unhappy one



A pre-Sarah doll

which moves the sense of pity. This shows a happy girl depicting the English sense of humour even when there are difficulties.'

Mr Stocki added that he had chosen Sarah's picture because of her face and posture, 'She was cheeky and quite beautiful,' he said.

Picture by courtesy of Western Mail and Echo.

'Communicator of the Year' Award for Spastics Society

THE Spastics Society has won the first 'Communicator of the Year' Award from the British Association of Industrial Editors. The Award was open to any individual or organisation in the United Kingdom, and was instituted to stimulate 'the effective use of communications methods in the promotion of harmony and understanding between people.'

After studying the communication methods of the many organisations, statutory authorities, and national companies nominated for the Award, the

distinguished panel of judges decided on a short list of four.

However, said Mr Ken Cornfield, President of the BAIE, at the Award presentation ceremony at London's International Press Centre in January, the judges were unanimous in their verdict that the Society must be the outright winner not only because of its long work over many years in educating public opinion about its activities and the problems of spastics, but also for the way in which it had mounted truly effective operations during the period under review.

The judges were: Sir Brian Batsford, retired Chairman of the RSA; Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union; Mr James Cameron,

noted journalist; Mr John Marsh, Assistant Director, British Institute of Management; Miss Margaret Nally, President of the Institute of Public Relations; and Mr Ian Hawkins, Chairman of the BAIE.

They were particularly impressed by the Society's campaign for a change in the tax laws relating to charitable organisations after the shock news that a £600,000 legacy to the Society from one of its founder members, Miss Jean Garwood, had been whittled down to a few thousand pounds because of the strict demands of taxation legislation.

The judges also liked the Director's Christmas Appeal letter which appeared in newspapers throughout the country, and there was commendation for Spastics News. 'I think you will understand the unanimity of the judges in making the Award,' Mr Cornfield told the Editors and communication specialists who attended the presentation ceremony.

The Award, which was sculpted by Mr Jesse Watkins, was accepted on behalf of the Society by Director Mr James Loring. He thanked the BAIE for the honour accorded to the Society and its staff, and spoke of the ways in which the

See Back Page.



FOUR of the Society's communicators with the elegant 'Communicator of the Year' trophy. From left: Sheila Jenner, Editor of Spastics News, Pat Taylor, Head of Information, and reporters Anne Plummer and Peter Cook. 'The Society is proud of the Award because the other nominations were of such a very high standard,' said Pat.

Why can't TV programme for disabled be seen nationally?

A UNIQUE television series was started up again last month. It's 'Link,' thought to be the only programme in the world specifically for disabled people.

But so far the programme can only be seen in the Midlands. Although it is in no way localised, Link is only being screened by ATV at Birmingham.

The big question being asked is: 'Why aren't disabled people throughout the country being given a chance to see the programme? What has Birmingham got that the rest of the country hasn't?'

Many people, disabled, or interested in the problems of disability, have written to the Chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, Lady Plowden, asking for Link to be networked.

Informs

What exactly are people living outside the Midlands missing? 'Well the programme's split into two parts,' said Richard Cressey the producer. 'The first section deals purely with information.

'For example we have information on aids. But we've got away from the old idea of sending an able bodied person to somewhere like the Disabled

Living Foundation to find out what's available.

'Instead we have Tony Northmore who is tetraplegic, and who previously won a Churchill scholarship to study the aids in America. Having a disabled person to present the subject makes it so much more relevant.'

Advice

The programme also gives information about income, and the Disability Alliance is very much involved in this. They give sound practical advice on various statutory welfare benefits of which many disabled people are just not aware.

And there is also information about books which might be useful for disabled people or those caring for them. The books are treated in a non review fashion, and include such things as The Spastics Society's Parents Handbooks.

An extensive information sheet is produced for each programme, and viewers can write off for these.

'But we are by no means just an information service,' said Mr Cressey. 'What we are doing is to re-examine the traditional attitudes towards disability by means of discussions.

One practical advantage to come as a result of the programme is that ATV is considering alterations to its studios at Elstree, where Link is recorded. It is investigating the possibility of incorporating

more ramps for wheelchairs, better toilet facilities, hand rails and so on.

Link is presented by Rosalie Wilkins, of MIND, and John Sheppard, a documentary producer. It is screened on Sundays at 9.30 am.

Footnote: Anyone wanting to write to Lady Plowden asking for the programme to be screened in all areas, can reach her at the IBA, 70 Brompton Road, London SW3.

Indoor pony gift for Meldreth's horsey set

THE children of Meldreth Manor School already have two ponies to ride. But now they have a third, thanks to the BBC children's television programme, Blue Peter.

The latest addition, however, is rather different from the other two. In fact it's highly unlikely that he'll have anything to do with them. Not only that, he'll be allowed inside the school building as well.

The new pony is a rocking horse. It was bought by Blue Peter out of the proceeds from

their old rags appeal. Every year there is an appeal for items of scrap which can be redeemed for cash, and this year it was old woollen and cotton rags.

At first Blue Peter hoped to collect 200 tons. But that figure was passed by the New Year, and the rags still kept flooding in. Money raised from the rags is all going towards items to helping disabled people to ride.

The children of Meldreth

Manor school go horse riding every week at a nearby riding school, and the school has two ponies of its own living in the school grounds.

A party from Meldreth went to London on January 28 to collect their rocking horse from the depot where the rags are being stored. Among them were (left to right) Mark Leverton, Nicki Budden, Anne Johnson and Mark Stevens (mounted). With them were Mr Ian Macauley (left) and Mr Malcolm Brownjohn (right), joint managers of the depot, and John Simpson, a voluntary helper.





The friendly fund-raisers

OVER the past eight years, the Friends of Ingfield Manor, the Society's boarding school in Sussex, have raised over £12,000 for the spastic children there. Of this amount, £3,000 was raised during 1975 with sales, a fete, open day, Italian and Greek evenings and an art auction.

Spelling out generosity

PUPILS of Woodside Primary School, Aberdeen, were rehearsing their show 'Pinnocchio' when Mr Ronald Duncan, regional officer for the Grampian area of the Scottish Council for Spastics, called to receive a cheque for £380. It was handed over by four of the actors, Edward Hutchinson, Jennifer Fraser, Juliette Anderson and Maxine Hutchinson

(seen right foreground with Mr Duncan).

The money was raised by Woodside children during a sponsored spell-in. They also promised a donation from the show's takings. And if their acting talent equals their spelling ability the show should be a real success.

Picture by courtesy of Evening Express, Aberdeen.

Group social workers prevent family stress

CUMBRIA Spastics Society now has two social workers looking after the welfare of spastic people in the area.

Mrs Penny Bramble has been appointed to replace Mrs J. L. Firth who is working as a careers officer at Spastics Society headquarters in London. Now Mrs Dorothy Howells has joined the Cumbria group as an additional social support visitor for Carlisle. She will be responsible for 100 or so spastic people in the city, leaving Mrs Bramble free to cover the rest of the county.

The Cumbria group believes that regular visits from welfare workers help to prevent harmful family crises, and since 1973 its case load has been increasing at the rate of 40 to 50 each year.

Many families are not visited by local authority social workers and are unaware of the benefits to which they may be entitled.

The provision of these welfare services is made possible by the fund-raising efforts of Cumbria Spastics Society's 15 local branches.

A trophy for Olive

ILFORD schoolgirl, Olive Lanning, who has a spastic disability, has received a special trophy for her swimming abilities.

Olive, who attends the Ethel Davies Special School, set out to swim 440 yards at the baths in Ilford High Road and completed half a mile.

Her swimming instructors clubbed together to buy her a commemorative trophy, and she was also given a medal by her school.

Picture by courtesy of Ilford Recorder.

£2,000 because they looked at records

EVERY year since 1955, an informal group of Edinburgh ladies have organised a ball in aid of various local and national charities. In that period they have raised almost £33,000.

In 1975 they looked back at their record and discovered that the last time they had a ball for Scottish Spastics was in their first year when they raised £690. So the Christmas Charity Ball in Edinburgh's magnificent Assembly Rooms was in the nature of an anniversary. The result? well in excess of £2,000. Congratulations, ladies!



Pop singer remembers home town

DUNDEE and District Spastics Association were the recipients of a most welcome and unexpected cheque for £100—from a 21-year-old Scot pop singer working in West Germany.

He is Iain Cussick, who sent the cheque to his mother with instructions to give it to either one of two local charities. Iain is a singer with the German group "Kentucky," whose latest record, 'Sold My Rock and Roll,' is in the German hit parade. It was due to the success of the record that he was able to send the cheque.

Iain has given money to several German charities but thought it would be nice to send a present to people in his home town, said Mrs Cussick. 'He has always said that if he made anything of his life, he would try to help others less fortunate.'

Looking for pen friends

A HANDICAPPED Canadian girl would like a male pen-friend in Britain.

She is Miss Anne Abbott, aged 18, who lives at 52 Somerdale Square, West Hill, Ontario, Canada, M1E 1N1.

MISS Edith Davis, aged 35, would like a pen-friend, preferably male of around the same age. If possible, she would like to correspond with somebody living in the London area. Miss Davis is five feet tall, with auburn hair and hazel eyes. Her interests are cooking, watching TV and pop records.

Her address is: 358 Woodvale, Forest Hill, SE23.

SEEKING a female pen friend is Mr Chris Evans, 28, of Rorian House, Winklebury Way, Basingstoke, Hants. Mr Evans is interested in pop music, especially the Beatles, and he also enjoys horse riding. He attends a work centre every day, from The Spastics Society centre which is his home.

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THAT'S THE WONDER OF WOOLWORTH

A fine achievement at Stockport

Cash headaches — but they 'get things done' at group centre

AT 19, Brian is at last learning to read. All his life, specialists have said that this would be impossible. Brian would never be able to do anything, they predicted. But nevertheless, he is learning to read.

He is one of the eight adults and 21 children who regularly attend Granville House, the Centre run by Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society. It occupies a spacious and imposing house in

a quiet residential part of Stockport. Originally the Group paid £2,000 for the house. Now it is insured for more than £10,000. It houses the Granville House Special Day School and the Granville House Adult Centre.

'Of course the specialists based their opinion about Brian on an assessment,' said Mrs Angela Keyworth, the head teacher. 'But he just didn't respond to an assessment. You have to get to know him before you get through to him.'

Learning

Granville House is far from being just a place where very severely handicapped people go merely to be looked after. It is very much a centre where they get things done, where they learn, and where they are encouraged to become as independent as possible. Of course with spastics who are severely mentally handicapped in addition to their physical disabilities, it is the little breakthroughs which are important.

Hazel, for example, didn't even know her colours when she first joined the adult group there. Now she can tell the difference between such subtle variations as maroon and red, and she is learning the intricacies of make-up. Beauty



COOKERY classes are very popular with the children who in our picture include, left to right, Elaine Burgess, Sian Harvey, Vincent Stainthorpe and Brian Little. Helping them are Mrs Mavis Johnson, left, a class assistant, and Mrs Pauline Ward, the teacher.

classes are a standard feature for the women.

Ann who is deaf, is also learning to read. First she was taught to distinguish the difference between squares, circles, diamonds and other obvious shapes. From this she went on to letters of the alphabet. With the help of a photograph of her, the teachers finally helped her to spell her own name. Now she is hard at work on her second word, 'cup.'

The time

Marion, who is 41, is learning how to tell the time, a thing she has never been able to do before. However, she is reluctant to talk. People find it difficult to understand her, so that she gives up.

For the children, the emphasis is on providing the maximum stimulation. They arrive each morning by taxi, mini-bus or ambulance, from all over Stockport and its surrounding areas in Derbyshire, Cheshire and Tameside. During the mornings, the teachers, with their assistants and voluntary helpers, work with the children on a one-to-one basis. They learn through play.

In the afternoon there are group activities. These include such things as cookery, physical education, puppetry, handwork, art and music. The staff endeavour to change the stimulus and the physical position of the children at

Cont on Page 4.

BELOW: Another example of learning through play. Colin Busby tucks himself away in the Wendy house which has different shaped windows to help the learning processes along. Mrs Dorothy Tomlinson, a class assistant, helps Michelle Finnigan and Lee Hammet at water play.



IT is important that a child should go through the vital stage of learning to crawl before he tries to walk. Here Stuart Merridith practices with a special aid, helped by physiotherapist Mrs Jane Palmer.



A GROUP activity session in the physiotherapy room, under the supervision of Mrs Jane Palmer, left, and Mrs Dorothy Arnfield.



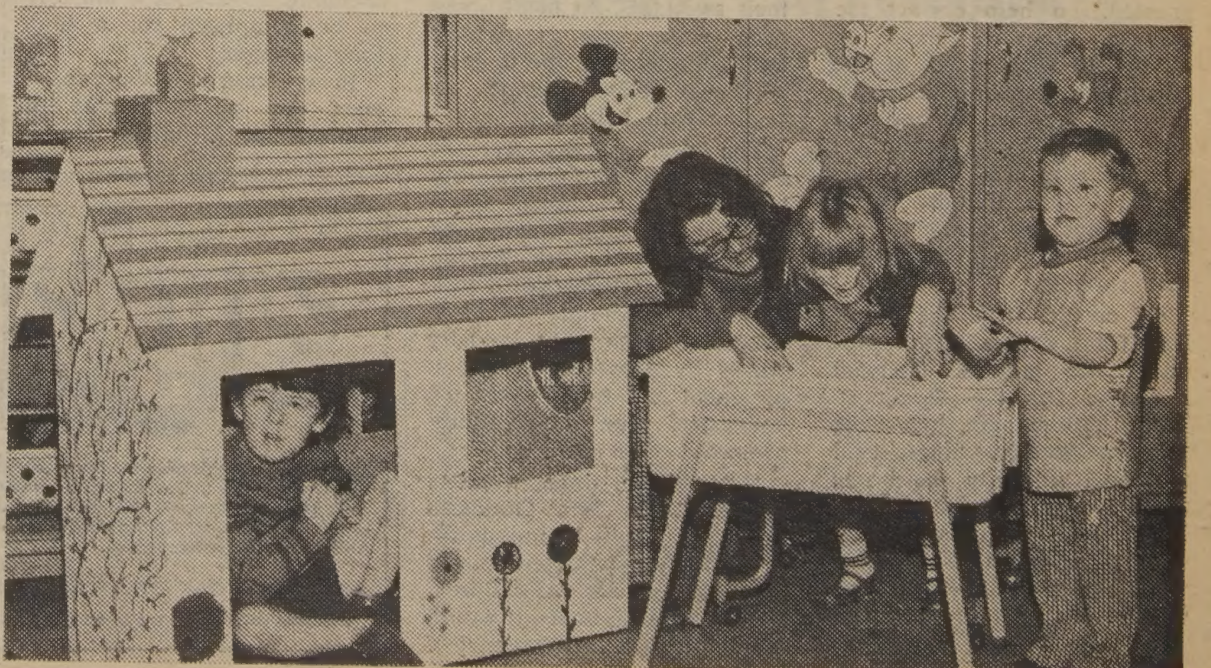
LITTLE Stuart Merridith is having fun with his peddle car. But he is learning at the same time. To keep both hands on the steering wheel is a major accomplishment for him. He is helped by Mrs Mavis Leach.



IN the adult centre, Mrs Bee Parker helps Janet Depledge wash up after a cookery session. The sink is arranged so that wheelchairs can fit underneath.



LEARNING through play is an important aspect of the centre's work. Head teacher Mrs Angela Keyworth uses a mobile toy to capture the interest of the two children in the rocking boat, Anthony Howarth and Tracy Robinson.





IN class two, teacher Mrs Jane Harvey gives individual attention to two little boys, Stephen Chilvers and Gareth Barlow.



AT lunchtime there is a great demand for volunteers, because feeding is carried out on a one-to-one basis. Mrs Vera Rhodes, left, who is helping Ann Hulse with her lunch in the adult centre, has been connected with Granville House for many years. Her husband helped found the centre, and was secretary of the local group.

Stockport's centre

Cont from Page 3.

regular intervals throughout the day. The last thing they want is for them to spend long hours in their wheelchairs.

To help with this there is a variety of equipment. For example there is a bright little Wendy house with different shaped windows. The smaller children love to crawl in and out of this. There are two large rocking boats. A table has been made into a raised bed with rails around it, so that the less mobile youngsters can watch the activities from a good vantage point.

One of the most important activities of the day is to fill in the diaries of the children who attend Granville House. This fulfills two functions. It provides a permanent record of each child's development. And it gives the parents an insight into what their offspring are doing at school, bearing in mind that they are unable to speak for themselves in most cases.

Outings

Of course, most severely mentally handicapped children are denied many of the ordinary experiences in life which most children take for granted. To help correct the balance, they are taken on outings to such places as the airport, a bowling alley, a shopping precinct, the zoo and on pony riding expeditions to a nearby farm. The adults at the Centre are also taken on outings, especially to the shops, to buy ingredients for their cooking.

Of course, it is the Adult Day Care Centre which produces the greatest financial headache for the Stockport East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society. Since 1971 the local authority has borne the cost of running the school. But there is no act of Parliament requiring them to underwrite the costs of the Adult Centre.

And these costs are rising

all the time. 'Last year we had to raise £10,000,' said Administrator and Appeals Officer Mrs Marion Goddard. 'But in the coming year we are going to have to redouble our effort and raise £15,000, because costs are rising so quickly.'

'It is very difficult to turn round to a fund raising group which has already pulled out all the stops, to tell them they have to work harder still next year.'

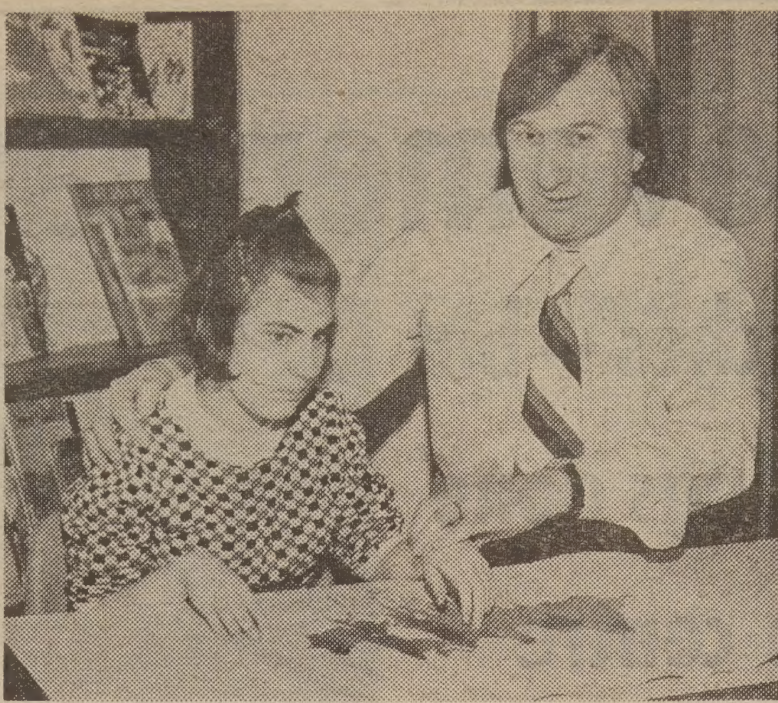
Their shop

In addition to the usual run of fund raising activities, the Centre has its own company, Granville House Ltd, which sells and distributes greetings cards, other stationery and small items. There is also a shop which sells second hand goods.

Granville House relies to a large extent on voluntary help. In order to provide teaching on a one to one basis, which is so vital for mentally handicapped people, a very large number of staff are needed. And this can only be achieved by bringing in volunteers, to work with the teachers and their assistants. At meal times, even more help is needed, and four girls from a local convent school come in regularly to help out.

The Centre has also received a lot of help from Community Industry, a Government sponsored organisation which gives youngsters who are having problems in settling down to a job, an opportunity to learn a trade. Community Industry works by providing paid employment and training for the youngsters on community projects.

'They have done wonders for us,' said Mrs Goddard. 'They've built cupboards, decorated, constructed pieces of equipment for the children, such as rocking boats. It would have cost us a lot of money if



THE chairman of the group, Mr Joe Garner, helps Maureen Kelly, who is blind, during a finger painting session.



HAZEL REFFELLS, one of the adults at the centre, loves new clothes and make-up. Here Mrs Rita Hughes, an assistant, helps her with a little eye shadow.

we'd had to pay for the work.'

Physiotherapy at the Centre is given to both children and adults. But the children's need is, of course, greater, so that they will receive treatment every day, while adults have physiotherapy perhaps once a week.

Every week there is a staff conference to discuss any problems which may arise, and to talk over the progress and development of individual spastics. This ensures continuity.

Opportunity

Centres like Granville House fulfill a unique function. They provide opportunities for people who just do not fall into the categories catered for by other centres. The local authority at Stockport is planning a new school for physically handicapped children. But whether this will take children so severely multiply handicapped as those at Granville House is debatable. In any case, with the proposed cutbacks in Government spending, the school is unlikely to be completed for a long time to come.

In any case it is the experience and personal care at Centres like Granville House

which make them so valuable. The staff and volunteers who work there, can really get to know the adults and children in their care, an element so often missing.

One little boy who came to Granville House was thought to be severely physically handicapped as well as mentally. But the staff discovered that his physical handicaps were only slight, and that the only reason he didn't walk were because his mental handicaps prevented him from learning to. He was soon running round the centre as happily as any other toddler.

Another little boy cried and screamed unceasingly when he first came to Granville House. Now he is as happy and cheerful a three year old as you could find anywhere, very outward going and keen to learn. A third boy used to have tantrums and throw everything off the window ledges. This doesn't happen any more.

Of course, there are limitations to what can be achieved. But for someone like Brian to learn to read, or Ann to spell 'cup,' or Hazel to distinguish mauve from blue, it is as big an achievement as if most of us had just passed the 'A' levels in mathematics.

PETER COOK.

Insurance on electric wheelchairs

A LONDON firm of incorporated insurance brokers is endeavouring to establish whether insurance of electric wheelchairs for individual owners would be a viable proposition on a separate policy basis. It is first of all necessary to ascertain the demand and if individuals and/or local groups are interested would they please send a postcard to Insurance Officer, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ.

Star opening

COMEDIAN Harry Secombe recently opened a garden shop at Wakes Hall Spastics Centre in Essex. Residents at the centre run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics, will help to run and supply produce for the shop.

Send in your entries now for Society's literary contest

LAST date for entries for the special literary contest for spastics, organised by The Spastics Society is February 27, so make sure you do not miss the post. Stories, articles, poems, are coming in from people of all ages, from all over the country for this ever-popular event. As one correspondent wrote when sending in for entry forms, 'I think this is a great contest as it gives a real incentive to a lot of people who would not otherwise bother to try to find an outlet for their talent.'

Just to remind you, there are three categories—schoolchildren, young adults, and the over 25's, with a separate section for poetry. As well as cash prizes for the best entries from males and females in each section, winners have a day out in London, attending a celebration lunch and a reception at which prizes are presented by Mrs Harold Wilson.

Write about anything you wish—a serious problem, a funny incident, a pet hate or love, a new slant on an ordinary everyday incident, a flight of fancy, short story, holidays, pets—anything that interests you. Articles can be typed or handwritten, or you can get someone to write at your dictation if you cannot manage it yourself. Everybody has something to say, so let's hear from you—you might win a

prize. Anyway, you'll enjoy trying.

Entry forms and full details from Mrs Nina Heycock, 27-33 Harrington Gardens, South Kensington, London SW7 (tel 370-6913) or direct through Spastics News. Closing date for entries Friday, February 27 1976.

Rules relaxed

IT seems that those fire regulations which are so often cited as a barrier to prevent disabled people from attending public performances, are not entirely insurmountable.

They were relaxed in January to allow 500 handicapped children to attend a performance of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' at Northampton Repertory Theatre.

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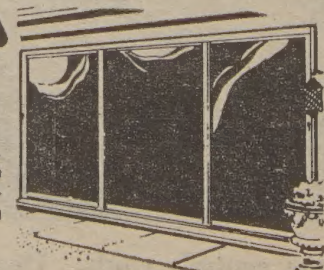
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Honours for volunteers

MR MATTHEW QUINN, a founder member of what is now the South Humberside Spastics Society, has received the OBE in the New Year Honours List.

A tribute to his voluntary work was paid in the Grimsby Evening Telegraph by Mr K. O. Coulbeck, Hon. Secretary of the South Humberside Spastics Society.

ANOTHER volunteer honoured was Mr Samuel Oake, of Mersham, acting chairman of the South East Surrey Spastics Group, who received the MBE in the New Year Honours List.

Alan's musical lesson

LEARNING by technology can be fun, as eight-year-old Alan Page, the spastic boy in our picture discovered. His father, Mr Terry Page (left), and Mr John Gaunt, a college lecturer in electronics, designed and built the Melody Chimes, specially for Alan.

It is a type of xylophone which can be operated by remote control, either by pressing a button as Alan demonstrates with his foot in the picture or by the sound of somebody blowing into a microphone.

Said Mr Gaunt: 'There are some excellent aids on the market to help handicapped people cope with everyday living but we want to provide some fun machines for them as well.'

Picture by courtesy of Luton Evening Post.

Technology—the new teaching aid

A COURSE held at the Society's Castle Priory College on Educational Technology for Handicapped Children is believed to have been the first of its kind in the world.

The course was arranged in conjunction with Roger Jefcoate, consultant assessor and lecturer on electronic equipment for the severely disabled. The programme included lectures and demonstrations of recently developed equipment as well as modified toys, games and teaching machines.

With toys

Peter Toft, of the Engineering Centre for Special Schools, Woolwich College, London, showed some exciting new toys, and Jack Pettican of the Society's Craig-y-parc School in Wales demonstrated various adaptations which he has made for his pupils.

Martin King-Beer, who is himself deaf, demonstrated

the new tele-typewriter system which will enable deaf and handicapped people to communicate via the telephone. He also showed a new portable telephone communication device for the deaf of which there are only three in the world.

A follow-up course at Castle Priory has been arranged for the weekend of February 27 to 29. This will be attended by a limited number of teachers and therapists, each accompanied by a handyman. Most of the time will be spent actually making and modifying suitable toys.

Technology and toys is also the theme of an informal group of therapists and engineers who have been meeting during the past year at various centres for handicapped children.

These meetings enable therapists, teachers and par-

ents involved in the day-to-day care of severely handicapped children to discuss problems with engineers and technicians and between them devise some effective aids to learning and play.

Top priority has been given to equipment which will help children with severe speech defects and enable them to develop intellectually at the same rate as non-handicapped children.

Frogs will have a ball

FOLLOWING the success of their Christmas lottery, the FROGS (Fund Raising Organisation for Spastics) have decided on a Mid-Summer Ball for their next venture. It will be held towards the end of June, but so far no further details have been decided.

The FROGS, who comprise some of the younger members of staff at the Society's headquarters at Park Crescent, were particularly pleased with the success of the raffle which raised more than £500. It was enough to buy a special typewriter for the Family Services and Assessment Centre, at Fitzroy Square.

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To: Mobility Allowance Unit, DHSS, Norcross, Blackpool, FY5 3TA.

Issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

You needn't be a 'stay at home' holidaymaker

NOW is the time to start thinking of summer holidays and The Spastics Society has planned some exciting new group ventures for disabled people in 1976.

In addition to the ever-popular 10-day visit to Calcella on the Spanish Mediterranean coast, some eight-day trips have been arranged to Ostend, the Italian lakes and Yugoslavia. Each offers places for 30 people, including helpers. Travel to Ostend is by coach and ship, the others are reached by air. The Spanish, Belgian and Italian holidays can all accommodate a number of wheelchair users.

Group holidays in Britain include an opportunity to get away from it all at the Penyrheol Adventure Centre in the Black Mountains of South Wales. Those taking part will be able to enjoy outdoor activities in unspoilt surroundings, but the mountainous terrain makes this holiday unsuitable for wheelchair users.

In July, a 'See London' holiday will be held at the Family Services and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square and from August 28 until September 4, there is the usual holiday under canvas at Woodlarks Camp, Farnham, Surrey.

The Jersey Spastics Society

is offering a holiday in the Channel Islands and it is also hoped to arrange some group bookings at Butlins Camp, Pwllheli, in July, instead of at the off-season dates usually made available to disabled people.

Sally Nicholls, the Society's recently-appointed Holidays Officer, will be pleased to give further details about any of the above group holidays. Miss Nicholls worked for five years with British Caledonian as an air hostess and has wide experience of the travel business. Her address is: c/o Recreational Services Department, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ.

Information about individual bookings may be obtained from Miss Merle Davies, 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W1P 5HQ. She has lists of suitable accommodation for spastic children, centres where personal care is given to the severely handicapped, holidays for more lightly disabled people and self-catering holidays. Miss Davies will also advise on bookings at the Society's own hotels, the Arundel at Westcliff, the Bedford at Clacton and Colwall Court, run by the Stare Organisation for Spastics, at Bexhill.

Details of other holiday accommodation suitable for disabled people can be found in 'Holidays for the Physically Handicapped, 1976,' price 65p, published by the Central Council for the Disabled, 34 Eccleston Square, London, SW1, and on sale at branches of W. H. Smith and Son.

ANNE HARRINGTON, the housekeeper of the Society's Thornton Heath hostel, is to retire at the end of March. The longest-serving of the 12 hostel housekeepers, she is herself mildly athetoid, and therefore has special insight into the problems of her residents. Anne Plummer meets this remarkable woman for whom life has always been a challenge.

She looks back on a lifetime of challenge

Meeting this slim, upright woman wearing a fashionable over-dress and high-necked sweater, it is hard to believe that she is 62.

Yet her youthful look is not due to a pampered existence because life has never been easy for her. She was one of 10 children in a poor South London family. Her father, embittered by service in the First World War and later by long periods of unemployment, hated her because she was handicapped.

'My Dad said more hurtful things to me than anyone in my whole life,' she said. 'And my mother was too scared to stand up to him.'

Anne went first to an ordinary school and then to a special day school for handicapped children, but her education was disrupted by long periods in hospital. In those days little was known about cerebral palsy and her condition was called 'chorea.' She remembers being puzzled once because another little girl was admitted to her ward with an acute, but apparently similar condition, and was sent home cured.

'Why did she get better and I didn't?' she demanded of the doctor.

'Well, something was

loose in her brain which could be put right, but the bit that's loose in your brain can't be put right,' was the reply. For those days, it would seem a very perceptive if crude definition of cerebral palsy.

When she was 21, Anne insisted on going out to work. The hospital found her a domestic post in a nursing home but she had to work so hard that after nine months she collapsed from exhaustion and was taken away in an ambulance. This time the hospital decided that she needed peace and quiet and she was packed off to work in the laundry of a convent in the country.

'A prison'

'It was peaceful all right but just like a prison,' she said. 'We weren't allowed to go out anywhere or have visitors. Our letters were censored so I couldn't let my mother know how unhappy I was. I wouldn't want to judge all nuns by my experience but those sisters were very cruel to the lay workers, though they didn't dare hit me because I'd been sent there by a doctor.'

Finally, after about three years, a welfare officer from County Hall in London came to see her and she was able to say that she wanted to leave. A few weeks after his visit Anne was sent for by the person in charge.

Previously, as a slight morale - booster she had stitched waist darts in the regulation sack-like garment which the girls had to wear, in an attempt to give it some style.

'I thought I was going to get into trouble about the frock,' she said, 'but I was told that I was leaving the convent there and then — without even a chance to tell anybody I was going.'

For the journey back to London she wore the clothes in which she had arrived — now three years out of date.



RESIDENTS of the Thornton Heath Hostel relax with a jigsaw puzzle at the weekend and their popular housekeeper is ready to lend a hand with the difficult parts. Left to right are Alison Clay, Alison Belton, Denise Ingles, who are all 19, Mrs Harrington, and Pamela Stent, 26. The four girls are employed at the Croydon Work Centre during the week.

But are spastics losing spirit of independence?

That was in 1938 when skirts were being worn fairly short.

'I felt such a freak in my long dress I thought everybody was staring at me,' she laughed.

Low wage

After another spell in hospital she went to live at home and found a job in a large store for the princely wage of 13 shillings a week. Then came the Second World War and a consequent demand for female labour. This meant a chance to earn higher wages and for the next decade she had a variety of domestic jobs in hotels, hostels and private service. 'I bluffed my way into most of those jobs,' she said, 'by exercising great self-control I managed to get through the initial interview without the employer realising I was athetoid and if they did find out afterwards, they usually reacted with amusement and admiration rather than anger.'

She says that admiration in itself can affect muscle control and for an athetoid a boost to the ego is as good as a dose of Valium. But the admiration has to be genuine and not the patronising 'Poor Brave Thing' variety. And there is no better ego booster than the knowledge that someone has not noticed any handicap.

Bluffing

'You get very crafty at disguising your difficulties among strangers. Like encouraging others to talk so that you don't have to speak much yourself; saying "No thanks, I've just had one" when offered a cup of coffee and letting others precede you out of a room.'

She feels that mildly handicapped athetoids have to bluff their way through life because this is the form of cerebral palsy which is most puzzling to the outsider. A wheelchair, a pronounced limp, a hemiplegic hand are instantly recognisable trademarks of disability but facial grimaces, slurred speech, unco-ordinated hands and above all, a violent startle reflex can lead to misunderstanding and embarrassment.

In 1948, Mrs Harrington's daughter Pat was born and she was left to bring up the child on her own. Although life was very difficult because she now had to earn enough money to support them both, motherhood had the effect of making her feel less 'different,' because she was sharing the experience of countless other women.

'We had a lot of fun when Pat was a child,' she said. 'I used to meet her from school and we'd go to the pictures or take a picnic tea to the park.

Or her friends would come round to our place — and I don't think there were ever any rude remarks behind our backs about her athetoid Mum.'

During the late '50s, Mrs Harrington contacted The Spastics Society, by then, one of Britain's fastest-growing charities. She was asked to help out at some of the earliest assessment courses held by the Employment Department for handicapped adults awaiting jobs. Some spastic people who came up for assessment were nervous about travelling alone and Anne frequently acted as escort for the journey. People from a distance often stayed overnight at her pre-fab in Kennington to save hotel expenses and eventually this led to her taking permanent spastic lodgers.

New hostel

In 1963, the Society opened a hostel at Thornton Heath in Surrey, with vacancies for five spastic residents. Anne moved in with Pat and has been housekeeper there ever since. She says in those early days she was able to encourage the residents to become independent and many moved on to their own flats, good jobs and happy marriages.

Now, however, her residents are of the generation

which has never known life without The Spastics Society. They have grown up in the security of residential schools where everything has been done for them and they have no desire to become independent.

'They've been waited on hand and foot all their lives and accept it as their due,' said Anne. 'They expect it to be the same here and I've just given up trying to make them do things for themselves.'

In the old days, also, she was free to make her own decisions and deal with problems as they cropped up, but now there is much more red tape involved.

So she is not entirely sorry to have reached retiring age. She has bought a small house in Lincoln, not far from her daughter, now married with a little boy aged three. After a lifetime's hard work, Mrs Harrington has undoubtedly earned the right to take things easy, but it is difficult to imagine her whiling away the retirement hours in front of the television.

'I don't know yet what I shall do with myself up there, but I shall certainly find something,' she said with determination.



MRS HARRINGTON with her daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Tony Holyoake and their little boy, Martyn, aged three-and-a-half.

Sports news

They aim for rifle shooting honours

STUDENTS at The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School have their sights fairly and squarely on the International Spastics Games, at Mont-trodat, France, in July. And for this reason they have taken up rifle shooting.

Rifle shooting is likely to be one of the new events at the Games. And the boys aim to win. They have started training early, and every Wednesday there is target practice.

Of course firearms are not used. Instead the lads have four airguns. 'We have been intending to take up rifle shooting for a long time,' said Mr Peter Fairweather, the school's physical education instructor. 'The fact that it was being included in the International Games prompted us to take action.'

'We have an area in the school grounds which is just right for a rifle range. It looks out across a wide valley, so that any stray pellets can't possibly hit anyone.'

'Eventually we shall have a covered firing area so that we can shoot in all weathers. And I hope to set up a system of pulleys for returning the targets, similar to those used at proper rifle ranges.'

'I think rifle shooting is an excellent sport for handicapped boys, or girls for that matter. We don't have any girls at the moment, but it wouldn't surprise me if one or two were joining in before long.'

If you want to teach canoeing...

MORE and more handicapped people are taking to the water in canoes these days. It is an ideal sport provided that you are reasonably fit above the waist. And pushing yourself around in a wheelchair is ideal exercise for building up the paddle muscles.

But recently a directive has been issued that no canoeing should take place unless at least one qualified instructor is present. So there is a greater demand than ever for people who have passed their BCU senior instructor's certificate.

To help potential instructors to gain this certificate, The Spastics Society's Physical Education Adviser, Mr Arthur Edwards, has arranged a special course at the Churchtown Farm Centre, Lanlivery, in Cornwall in April.

The course is for people who are already skilled enough to pass the BCU proficiency (inland) kayak certificate. They should have completed three one-day tours before the course begins.

Further details can be obtained at The Spastics Society, 8 Starvecrow Close, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

Securicor cares



The changing image of hospital care



JANET TAYLOR, one of the day patients at Twyford, gets a manicure from voluntary worker Betty Mansbridge. Beauty care is an important feature of the Young Disabled Unit.



SUSIE MOON, 17, decides its time to clear out her cupboards, so nursing assistant Eileen Fox gives her a hand.



JIM DALE, left, and Charles Levy pit their wits in a game of chess.

New way of life in special unit for disabled

LONG-STAY hospitals have come in for a lot of criticism in the past for being too institutional, dull, drab and impersonal. But if Twyford House, a relatively new unit at Linton Hospital, near

Maidstone, is anything to go by, it looks as if the National Health Service is moving away from its former image.

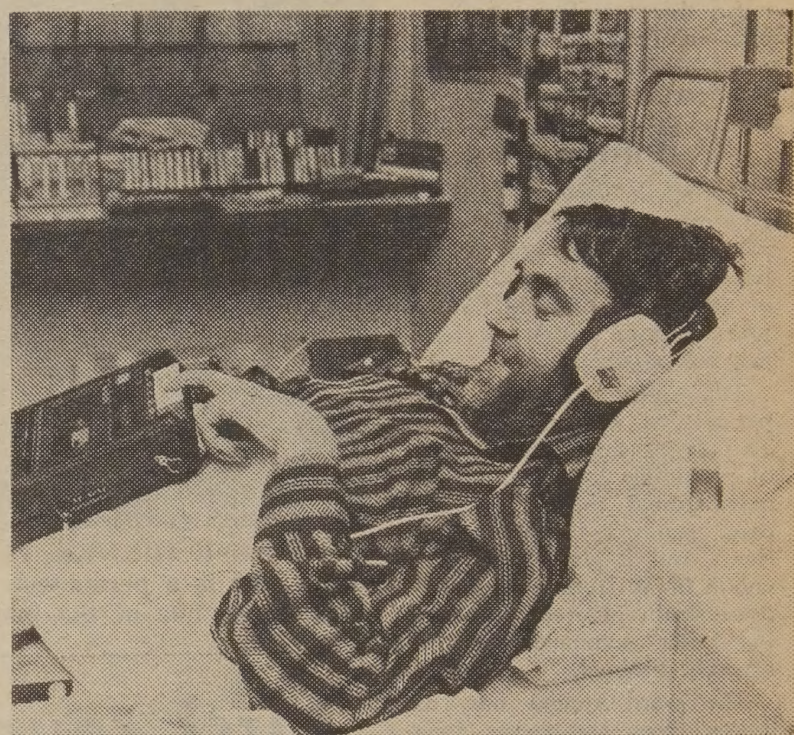
Twyford House is officially described as a Young Disabled Unit. But this is a misnomer. It is currently home for about 21 handicapped people aged 16 to 60.

The hospital in which it is situated is old and looks forbidding. It caters mostly for geriatric patients.

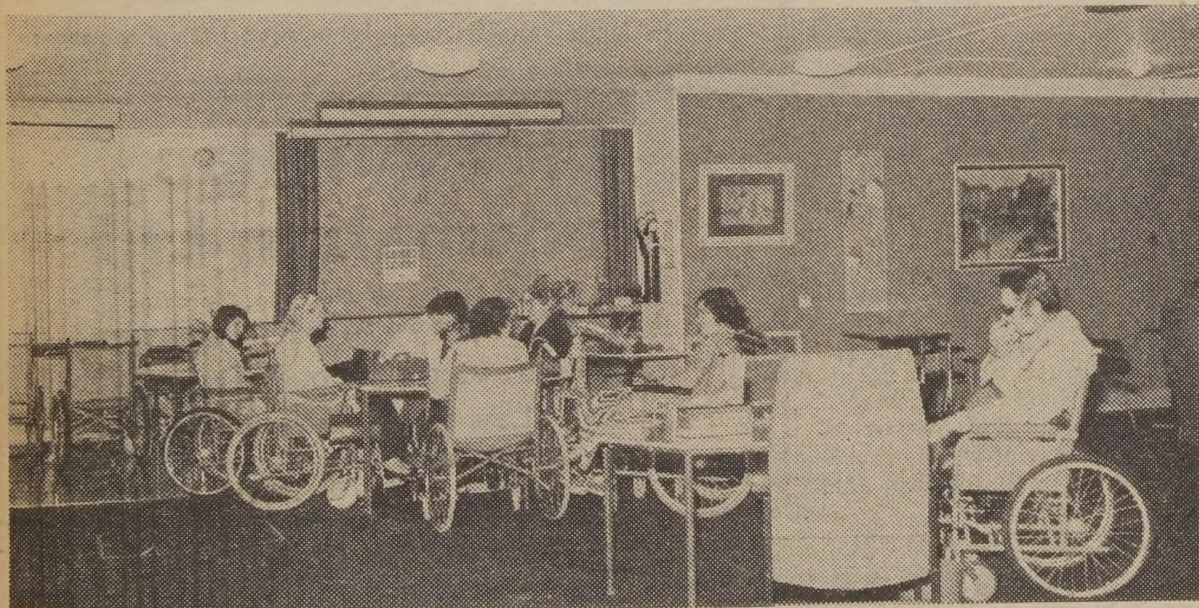
Twyford, which opened in 1973, makes a bright contrast. It is new, bright, modern, and purpose built. There are many features of its design which could well be improved. For example handles on the doors to the patients' rooms are conventional ones — hard to manage. And the kitchen equipment is out of reach of people in wheelchairs, which is a pity because patients as well as helpers are supposed to be able to use the sink and hot plates.

But the unit is a far cry from the days when patients were expected to just sit and be looked after, and perhaps do a little occupational therapy.

Most of the residents are very severely disabled, and are able to do little for themselves. And unlike residents at a Spastics Society centre, most of them need constant medical care as well as general care. Spastics could qualify to live at Twyford, but at the moment the patients include people suffering in the main from muscular dystrophy.



OCCUPATIONAL therapy activities are provided at Twyford, but you don't have to join in. Alan Richardson, for example, sometimes prefers to enjoy a little quiet music from the comfort of his bed.



TWYFORD House is a vast improvement on the usual long stay hospital. There are few visible signs of institutionalisation, the surroundings are bright, and the residents can to a large extent please themselves what they do.



NEW hairdos for two of the ladies at the unit. Jean Alway helps Betty Brown, left, and Mavis Steele.

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Life in hospital

Cont from Page 7.

multiple sclerosis, and spinal injuries.

Occupational therapy is provided. There are handicrafts, cooking, art classes, a printing press and many other activities. But none of these are compulsory, and patients can please themselves to a large extent how they spend their time.

A resident's committee meets regularly for views to be aired and to plan a social programme for the centre. This includes film shows, productions by visiting groups, parties and so on.

'On the whole it's very pleasant here,' said Mr Charles Levy. Both he and his sister are disabled and live at the unit. 'Of course there are a few moans and groans, but you are bound to get that when a number of people are living together under the same roof.'

'Because you are all disabled, it doesn't necessarily mean that you have anything else in common with each other. There are bound to be problems.'

Joining in

'I find it very difficult to take part in many of the occupational therapy activities because I have very little use of my arms. I would like to join in more things but it is just not possible.'

The unit caters for day patients as well as residents. This fulfils the dual function of providing the patients with occupational therapy, beauty care, games and other activities. And it gives their parents a break from the tremendous strain involved in looking after someone who is severely disabled.

The ward system has, of course, been completely done away with. There are a few single rooms, two double rooms and four rooms with four beds each. It's not everyone who likes to be in a room by themselves.

Volunteers

The perennial NHS problem of being understaffed is as true at Twyford as anywhere. There should be a total of 26 trained and untrained staff, a figure seldom if ever achieved. Voluntary helpers ease the burden to some extent, but if more staff were forthcoming then many more activities could be arranged for the patients.

However, there is a voluntary fund raising committee, and so far it has raised £5,000 towards a coach to take the residents on outings. This will get them out of the building more, and make a great difference to their lives.

ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS



THE Spastics Society's Churchtown Farm field studies centre is now busy taking bookings for the coming season. But the first people to take advantage of the facilities and activities offered there were from 'Trengeath,' the Plymouth Spastics Centre. And they had a wonderful time as these pictures show. Above: John Mutton, 15, became very popular with the local ducks.



LORRAINE MILNER, 15, gets a ride from the donkey Maxi who is a permanent member of staff, led by Sue McDiamid, one of the helpers there.

First round won in TV shows battle

THE London '62 Club's fight for disabled people to be allowed to be included in television audiences took a step forward last month. Janice Hancock, secretary, and Anthony Hacker, chairman, went to see a recording of 'Doctor on the Go' as guests of London Weekend Television.

'There were absolutely no problems,' said Anthony. 'At least one, and probably two wheelchairs could be easily accommodated without danger or inconvenience.'

'Jan's wheelchair was positioned at the top of the centre aisle, so that she was

near to the main exit. If there had been an emergency she could have been got out quickly, without causing problems.'

The Club has been told by Thames Television that a meeting is being arranged with the controller of administration to discuss ways in which handicapped people can be included in studio audiences.

Meanwhile the BBC has not been forthcoming as far as television is concerned. However, it has provided tickets for Friday Night is Music Night at the Golders Green Hippodrome.



THE beach, of course, is always popular, and it was no exception when Deputy Warden Andrew Faulkner took a party down to play on the sands.

Church alms will aid group funds

AN offer by the Vicar of Wellington, the Rev John George, to donate the alms from the services in his church on Sunday, March 7, to the Taunton Deane branch of the Bridgewater and District Friends of Spastics Association, has been gratefully accepted.

Announcing this at the branch's January meeting, the Chairman, Major James Curtis, said a display illustrating the Society's work would be arranged in the church.

Mr George said later: 'This is a very good cause and as we try in Wellington to cover a large number of worthy causes we felt it would be splendid to help the Society.'

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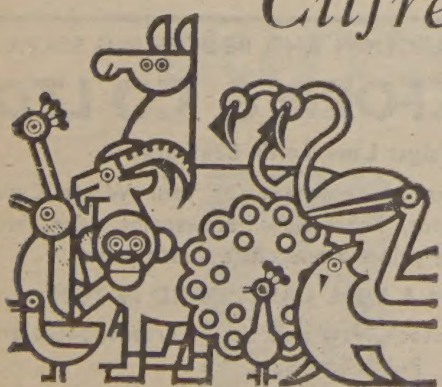
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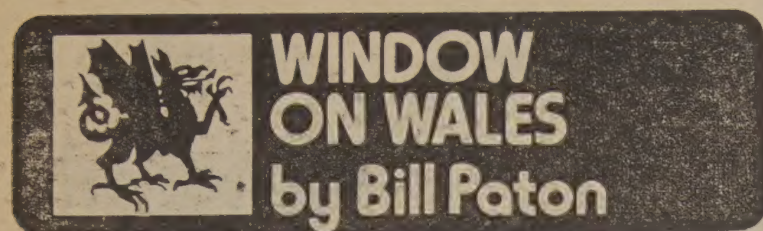
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Young people anxious to help handicapped

WELSH youth organiser John Roberts has been doing much useful work in his sphere which has already produced beneficial results.

Visits have been made to several schools in the principality and apart from the enjoyment they have given, John has been delighted by the spontaneous donations from quite a number of the schools visited. While the amounts raised have not been spectacular, the mere fact that the money has come unrequested shows the impression made upon the youngsters.

At a recent meeting held in Pembroke Dock, Mr Roberts has seen a fruitful outcome to the round robin tour of the three largest groups in Pembroke.

One lot of youngsters, whose

ages vary from 12 to 18, have formed their own group. These youngsters, who are to call themselves Friends of Spastics and Disabled People, hope that their unit in Pembroke Dock will be the first of a national association.

Their initial aims are to see that physically handicapped youngsters who would like to attend able bodied youth clubs are helped to achieve this idea. It is also hoped to arrange a local camping holiday for the local disabled.

Take a break at Mumbles

BECAUSE of a poor response from local authorities to make use of its residential unit with its attractive Mumbles setting, plus staffing problems, Swansea has had to abandon its plan to open the unit in April on a full time basis.

However, the group is determined to open the unit part-time when it is required from April to the end of September, and a cordial invitation is extended to groups who would like to send spastics so that their parents can be given a break.

The weekly fee is £35 to groups, and inquiries should be sent to the Association secretary, Mr D. H. Miller, Longfields, West Cross, Swansea or telephone Swansea 68451.



Appeals man has a party

KEN Thomas, appeals organiser and a prodigious worker for Swansea and District Spastics Association, and his wife Vi, recently celebrated their silver wedding when over 100 guests, including several spastics and their parents, attended a reception at the Irvine Club, Oystermouth.

The health and happiness of Ken and Vi, as well as their young spastic daughter Elvira, was toasted in champagne. The couple received many valuable gifts.

The Thomas family is pictured above at the party.

A big draw!

THE Christmas draw promoted by appeals organiser Ken Thomas was again an outstanding success, realising over £1,500—an increase on last year. Ken also received a welcome gift of £100 from the Tenby House ladies committee, staunch supporters of the Association for many years, and £54 from the Gough Arms, Ystradgynlais, while committee man Cyril Morgan was presented with a cheque for £100 by the Rock and Fountain charities club, Skewen.

Christmas cards sales, though down on 1974 because of the increased postal charges, brought in over £300, while the ladies guild organised a splendid Christmas Fayre.

Busy workers at Cardiff

THE Cardiff group has been just as active. A dance which featured The Batchelors in cabaret, realised £600 while plans are well in hand for organised events in the coming months through which

it is hoped to swell the funds considerably.

A highlight of the Christmas period was the first class presentation of the play 'Christmas Magic' by the Cardiff Children's Charity group at the Highfields Centre for the physically handicapped. The proceeds of £18.72 brought the total which this group has raised for the Cardiff day centre to £157.72 last year.

A door knock effort takes place on April 18, followed by a flag day on April 24. These two functions will be preceded by a dance at the Top Rank suite.

An unhappy note, however, is that yet another spastic collecting doll has been stolen in the city from outside a local business. Other groups have had a similar experience. The police were notified but there is little hope of any being recovered.

A great beginning

THE newly formed Carmarthenshire Spastics and Disabled Persons Society have had their first busy Christmas. A highly successful market stall was followed by an equally successful shop where a lot of jewellery, cards and cakes were sold.

Final figures are not yet to hand, but initial estimates are well in excess of £300.

The group have been lucky in attracting the interest of Mr Gwynfor Evans, the county Member of Parliament, who has been invited to become the Society's president.

Children are always anxious to help the cause, says regional officer Emlyn Davies, who received a donation from a group, ranging from five to six in Mayals, Swansea, residing near Mr Davies.

Through Mr E. G. Mort, Pontypridd, came a postal order for £1 from Timothy and Paul, Tonteg, and Flt Lieut R. Keane, Officer Commanding the Ebbw Vale squadron of the AIC forwarded a cheque from the sale of waste paper which the cadets collected themselves.



DRAGON makers at work at Sully Work Centre. Sue Soo Seto, Peter Stephenson, Reg Goldworthy, Garry Anker and Paul Utting, with the artistic dragons designed to attract discerning tourists.

Their dragons may make Prince change his mind about 'shoddy' trinkets

IT was the Prince of Wales who called the tourist trinket trade 'shoddy' — and gave food for thought to a small Sully workshop.

Could they, they wondered, produce a tasteful Welsh gift, made from Welsh materials by a mainly Welsh work force — the workers both making and selling the goods?

Individual

They decided on a small but exquisite Welsh dragon, which can be sculpted in bronze, aluminium, even plated in gold: every one individual and a collector's piece.

They needed to be taught both how to produce and sell the dragons — and the unique thing about this industrial co-op is that all the workers are spastics.

The Sully Works Centre, run by The Spastics Society, employs 53 people, aged from 16 to 60 with varying degrees of handicap. A group of about 20 are involved in creating the dragons, which should be ready for sale by the spring.

The centre even has a printing department which will produce a leaflet with the history of the dragon and possibly a presentation box.

More work

Ross Richards, manager of the centre, and assistant manager Trevor Smith are enthusiastic about their project, which they see as a commercial enterprise which may attract more work to the centre.

One hundred quality dragons will be made first and sold at around £30 or £40 as collector's items or presentation pieces. One will be presented to the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester when they visit the St Athan Boys' Club in June.

Then, in the summer, workers from the centre hope to buy a coach, con-

vert it and load it with dragons and tour Welsh resorts.

Trained in marketing techniques by P.R. man Harry Harrison, a few of them will systematically visit retailers.

They will be aiming to sell less expensive — though no less stylish — dragons costing about £10 to £12.

The centre's 'bread and butter' work is contracts from firms making, for example, fruit machines or lanterns. Naturally the centre is grateful for such work, but the intention is to become self-supporting, and the dragon project could be the first step in that direction.

'It's long been our objective to be self-supporting and we're slowly straining our way towards it,' said Ross Richards.

Each dragon is individually sculpted and takes about seven

hours to make. Welsh slate, bronze and lead are used, but the centre is reticent about the production process for obvious reasons. But, by spring, they should be making at least 100 a week.

Their 'Venture Planner' — co-ordinating the project — is Mrs Nicky Jacobson.

Workers say they enjoy the 'sales' classes as much as making the dragons. Selling situations are simulated in an informal lecture atmosphere, so that workers can practise their persuasion techniques.

The most valuable facet of the enterprise could be the dignity bestowed on the workers. As young June Richards put it: 'It shows that we can do something in the same way as everyone else.'

Article and picture by courtesy of the South Wales Echo.

Pool people aid funds

A NICE gesture has come from two Spastic Pool collectors with Top Ten Promotions, Nigel Stephens, Abergavenny, and Mrs A. Williams, Machynlleth.

Mr Stephens handed over his £25 commission, while Mrs Williams organised a second-hand toy sale which £35 was presented to the Regional fund.

Top Ten Promotion supervisors in Wales had their second get together at Ysgol Gogarth, Llandudno's school for handicapped children. Headmaster Tudor Rhapps and Mrs J. Salisbury, chairman of Caernarvon Spastics Society, spoke.

Congratulations to Mrs Diane Richards, wife of Mr Ross Richards, manager of the Sully work centre, who was recently successful in passing an examination following a course on 'The handicapped person in the community.'

Congratulations also to Pat and Henry Wood, of Pontypridd, on the birth of their second child—Clare.

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MR M. Garcia, 23 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxon, has three invalid chairs for sale: Bactric electric three-wheeler; electric Chairmobile; Everest and Jennings pushchair. — Telephone Wallingford 39432.

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SN F12



MR Albert Moon and his family had an exceptionally nice surprise when a letter arrived at their home at Grainey Fields, Hartlip, from the Spastics Pool telling Albert he had won £1,600. Mr Moon is pictured with his wife Carol and baby Spencer and the letter telling him of his windfall.



MRS Elizabeth Jenkinson, of Hawkshead, Ambleside, Cumbria, had plenty to smile about when she received a cheque for £10,000. Mrs Jenkinson won outright the first dividend of the Spastics Pool. The cheque was presented by Kendal's Town Mayor, Councillor P. Crabtree. The official collector Mrs Brassington also received a cheque for £500.

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News about the Spastics Pool

First-hand view of Society's work

THE picture top right shows Roy Laver, Director of the Spastics Pool, left, presenting collector David Hart and winner member Richard Stainthorpe with their prizes which were won on December 20, 1975. Also included in the photograph are Mrs Stainthorpe and Mr A. V. M. Diamond, Secretary of The Spastics Society.

The presentation took place at a meeting of Spastics Pool supervisors at the Sunderland and District Spastics Society, Hylton Road, Sunderland, on Monday, January 12. Richard won £3,333.34 which was his share of the first dividend.

As a follow up to the meetings held in November and December involving supervisors within regional management areas and head office staff, another series of meetings have been held at Spastics Society centres for supervisors outside Management Areas.

The purpose of the meetings was to keep the Company's field representatives up to date with the latest developments and policies relating to the Spastics Pool.

Visits were made during January to Castle Priory College, Wallingford; Hawksworth Hall, Leeds; Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Group; Ysgol Gogarth, Llandudno; Dene Park, Tonbridge; The Spastics Society, London; Coventry and District Spastics Group; Meldreth Manor, Royston; the adult training centre, Lincoln, and the Regional Grocott centre for spastics, Stoke-on-Trent.



MR F. Burbage, supervisor Y803 hands over a cheque for £50 on behalf of the Good Neighbours Trust to Mr F. Jagger, Headmaster of Hawksworth Hall School, Leeds, after the meeting on Sunday, January 11.



MRS Beryl Parkinson a committee member of the Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Group gives a short introduction to the supervisors who attended the meeting at Blackpool on January 12.

BRIEFLY...

A COLLECTION for spastics was held at three Lincoln supermarkets during the busy Christmas shopping period and with the help of an 1880 German fairground organ, almost £200 was raised.

A COFFEE evening held by Miss Celia Prophet raised £430 for the North Staffordshire Spastic Association.

PROCEEDS of a bazaar held by Bedford and District Spastics Society amounted to £2,150.

A CHRISTMAS fayre held at Plymouth Spastics Centre, Devon, raised over £400, and not £40 as previously reported.

THE annual fair held by Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society raised £2,300.

Letter of the month

AFTER reading about the terrible vandalism in the January issue of Spastic News, I thought your readers might be cheered to hear about several donations that came into our

shops during the Christmas period.

It was money given by children who had been carol singing, and in another case holding a mini-sale selling our Christmas cards and bows and so on.

The amounts were not large but doubly welcome because they came from the kindness of children. They had become aware of our work through our charity shops and they were very proud to be able to come into the shops and give the money.

A. Barker,
Assistant to National
Shops Supervisor,
50 High Street,
Eltham SE9.

MR Tudor Rhapps, Headmaster of Gogarth School, receives a Good Neighbours Trust cheque for £50 from Mrs Sylvia Walter of the Divisional Management Office of Top Ten after a successful meeting with Area Supervisors.

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Our new generation of supporters



WHAT a swell party it was for little Jane Chenery at New Year. For Jane was one of 60 children from the Watford Spastics Centre, who were entertained at a party given by sixth formers from Grove School, Hemel Hempstead. They treated the children to music, games and variety acts. Now they hope to make the party an annual event.

Picture by courtesy of the Evening Echo, Hemel Hempstead.



THREE pictures which show what very nice things happen when you catch the enthusiasm of children for the cause of spastics. And don't get the idea that the party, and the two cheque presentations are isolated incidents—we could fill the

whole page with news about the way in which young people are prepared to help the less fortunate. THE picture above shows Liver Bird Nerys Hughes a long way from the Mersey when she visited the young fund-raisers of Ippleden

Primary School, near Newton Abbot, Devon.

Nerys, a member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, went to receive a £100 cheque for SOS funds. Pupils at the school raised the money with a play, a carol service and two raffles.

Picture by courtesy of Western Morning News.



PICTURED left children at the Windmill First School, Headington, Oxfordshire, proudly hold up cheques totalling £170 which they presented to The Spastics Society. Although the oldest pupils at the school are only 10 years old, they raised more than £100 with a sponsored walk. The rest of the cash was the proceeds of the school's harvest festival.

The top money-raiser in the sponsored walk was only seven years old. He earned £17.50.

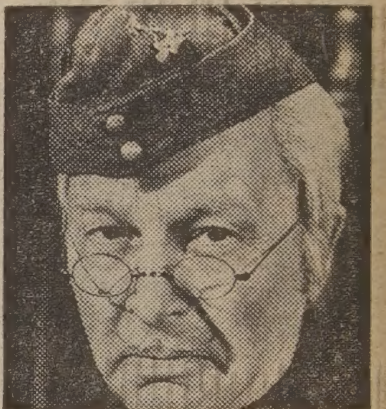
Picture by courtesy of Oxford Times.

Cpl Jones attacks for SOS

IT was a bit of a shock for Corporal Jones when he entered one of the pubs around Leicester Square. The Dad's Army veteran was on a special mission to raise funds for spastics, together with the brass section of the orchestra from the Shaftesbury Theatre.

The strategy was clear. Invade the West End pubs—with the landlords' permission, of course. Bombard the customers with a few brassy numbers. Then move in with the collecting boxes to raise cash for the SOS.

But one landlord sent Clive Dunn—who plays Corporal Jones—and his



Clive Dunn

pals upstairs to collect at a private party. When they arrived they were astonished to discover it was a funeral party.

'It was a traditional cockney do,' said Clive. 'Everyone was having a few drinks and a bit of a knees-up to cheer themselves up—and quite right, too. But they were very generous, and soon started stuffing bank notes into the collecting boxes.'

To help swell the funds SOS members placed collecting boxes in the foyer of the Shaftesbury Theatre, where Dad's Army is currently on show.

All in all they collected £400.

from Page One

Society's Award

Society presented its cause to Press and public.

He said: "We do not mount campaigns in the superficial, fickle sense of the word. We have to be convinced ourselves that everything we say is absolutely true... and then we tell the truth in simple words that the majority of people can understand. That is the very essence of communication, and you cannot succeed in any other way."

The runners-up to the Award, which was sponsored by Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd, were Kodak Ltd, the London Borough of Camden and the London Fire Brigade.

Royal visits for group centres

THE Spastics Society's local voluntary groups are certainly getting their share of Royal visits. Recently the Prince of Wales toured Sheffield and District Spastics Society's work centre at Oughtibridge. And now there is news of visits by the Duchess of Kent, and the Duchess of Gloucester to centres run by local groups.

The Duchess of Kent, who is Patron of The Spastics Society, will visit Hamilton House, the day centre for children and adult spastics run by the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society, in March. And the group's President, the Duchess of Norfolk, will accompany her.

It is a very special occasion for the Brighton group, which is celebrating its 21st anniversary this year. This makes it the second oldest group in the country.

Hamilton House is named after Dr Guy Hamilton, who was one of the prime movers in the formation of Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society.

The Duchess of Gloucester is visiting centres run by the Croydon, Sutton and District Spastics Society early this

month. She will tour the children's centre 'Rutherford' and the work centre at Bramley Hill.

This visit was arranged after the Duchess met John Preshier who played the part of Joey Deacon in the television film 'Joey.' John is employed at the work centre.

He, with his mother and other people concerned with the film, were invited to tea with the Duchess. And she in turn was invited to look over the centres.

Woolies was wonderful

DISTRIBUTORS and repair agents of electrical goods have been much criticised for discourtesy and lack of service, so it is refreshing to come across a story showing the other side of the coin.

A Dundee couple bought a combined record-player, radio and cassette recorder from Woolworths for their son who is both blind and spastic. After only two weeks the equipment developed a fault and on the store's advice, it was returned to the distributors for repair. Ten weeks later it had not come back and the store loaned the young man another machine.

After another month the original equipment had still not been returned, so Woolworths' manager decided to give the family a completely new model—a more expensive version at no extra cost.

Sex symposium

MR JAMES LORING, Director of The Spastics Society will be one of the speakers at a symposium on the Sexual Problems of the Disabled. This is organised by the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health and will be held at Central Hall, Westminster, on March 25, 1976.

Pigeon auction is quite a coup...

THE Spastics Society is hoping to stage another und-raising coup with its annual pigeon auction, which is being held this year at Finsbury Town Hall on March 13. This year the work of organising the event is Mr Peter Jordan's pigeon. Mr Jordan is Head of Appeals Projects for the Society.

Mr Jordan has appealed to pigeon fanciers all over Britain to contribute birds for the auction, or to

undertake to breed birds to order. All the people who contributed to the 1973 auction have been contacted.

Recently a grand draw organised in support of the auction raised £1,300. The lucky ticket was drawn by Mr Colin Osman, Editor of The Racing Pigeon magazine. Pictured with him are Mr Jordan, right, with his secretary, Valerie Shirley, and assistant secretary Katherine Ellis, left.



Every local group for spastics welcomes new volunteers. Could YOU help? Your local group is: